

# Continued National Service: Michigan's Farmer Veterans Lead the Way

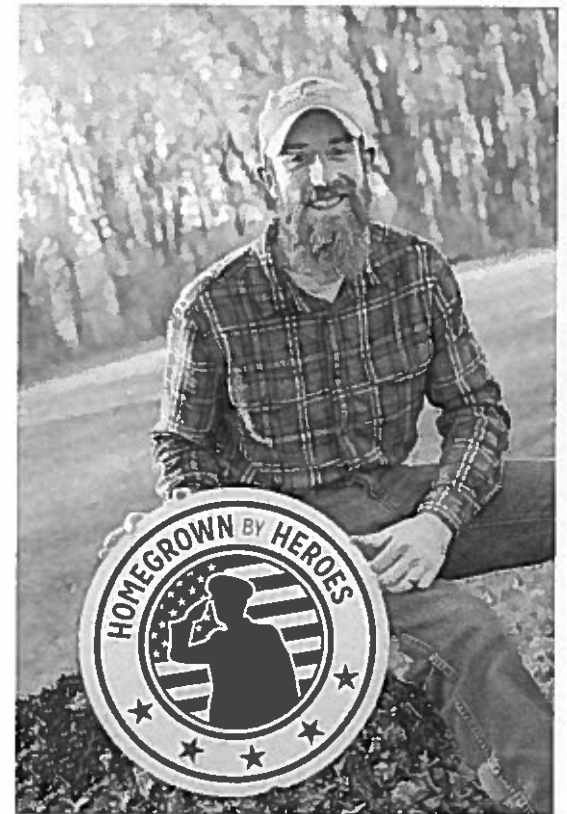


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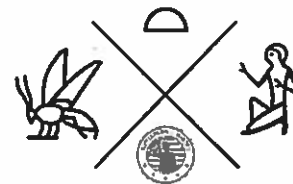
## Our Personal Stories:

- Dylan Thomas
  - Army Vet
  - Two Pines Farm – Marcellus, MI
  - 2015 FVC Fellow
  - FVC Regional Ambassador
  - FVC-MI President



## Our Personal Stories:

- Adam Ingrao
  - Army Vet
  - National Science Foundation Fellow, MSU
  - Bee Wise Farms – Lansing, MI
  - 2015 FVC Fellow
  - FVC-MI Exec. Director



BEE WISE FARMS



## **What makes a veteran?**

- Dedication to duty
- Selfless service
- Our investment
- Highly trained
- Leaders





## **What makes a farmer?**

- Dedication to duty
  - Selfless service
  - Our investment
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**FARMER VETERAN**  
COALITION

## Farmer Veteran Coalition

- National 501(c)3
  - Mobilize veterans to feed America
- Assisting veterans
  - Education
  - Resources
  - Marketing
  - Funding
  - Community



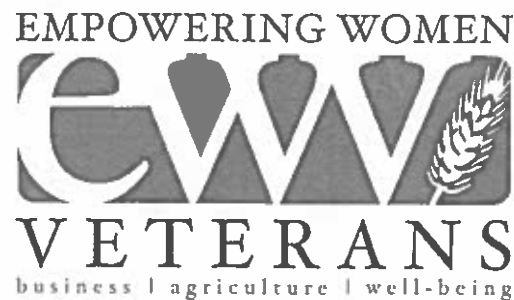


## Education

- National Stakeholders Conference
- Empowering Women Veterans Conference

## 2015 FARMER VETERAN STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE

November 17 - 19 | Sacramento, CA





## Resources

- Business development
- Financial resources
  - Kiva Loan program
- Legal counsel



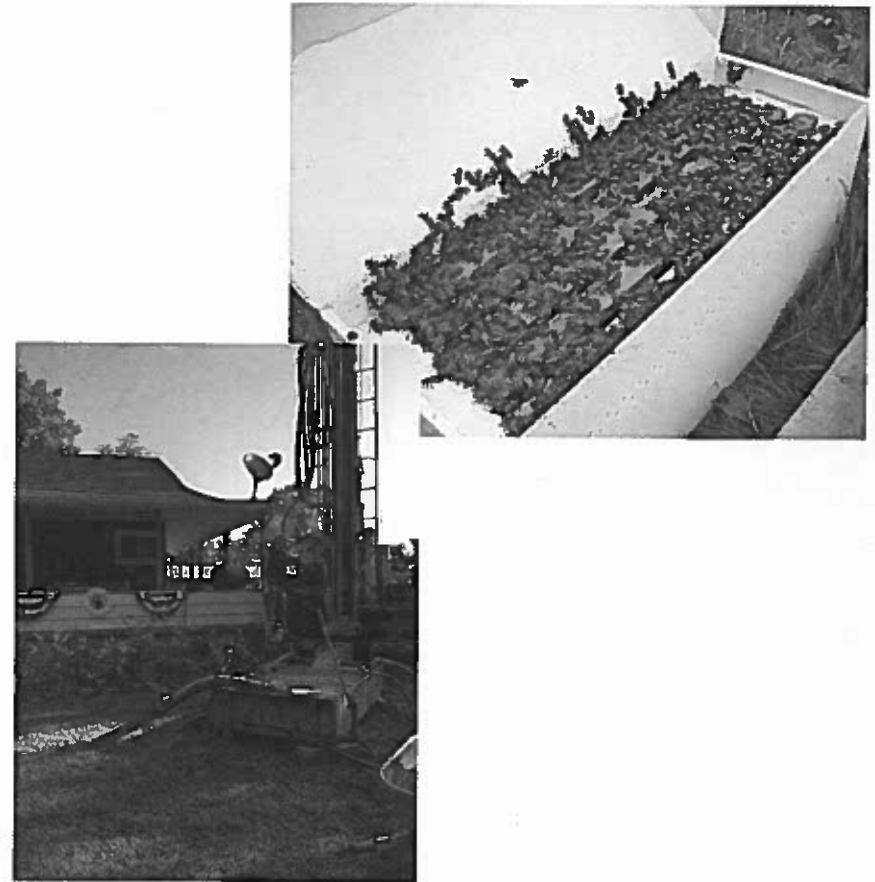
## Marketing

- Homegrown By Heroes
- Promotion of member products



## Funding

- FVC Fellowship Program
  - \$1,000 - \$5,000 grants
    - Infrastructure
    - Equipment
    - Education
  - Over \$1 million to farmer veterans since 2011





## **Benefits of Being a Fellow:**

- Invitation and scholarship to the National Stakeholders Conference
- Opportunities to become a peer mentor for other farmer veterans
- FVC featuring your profile and farm in media outlets

**2015 FARMER VETERAN  
STAKEHOLDERS  
CONFERENCE** 

November 17 - 19 | Sacramento, CA



## Benefits of Being a Fellow:

- Eligible for Geared to Give Program
  - Award 1 Kubota L series tractor every quarter



## Community

- Vet-to-vet approach
- Support
- Mentorship
- Comradery
- Leadership





## Farmer Veteran Coalition of Michigan

- State chapter of national FVC
- MI non-profit organization
- Boots on the ground for national programs
- Build farmer veteran community
- Direct outreach
  - MI Family Farms Conference
  - Great Lakes Expo
  - MVAA Vet Expos



## Education

- Soil health workshop NRCS
- Integrated pest management
- Beginning beekeeping
- Pasture raised pork production
- **2016 Farmer Veteran National Stakeholders Conference**







## Resources

- Resource education
  - Programs available to vets
- Connecting with experts

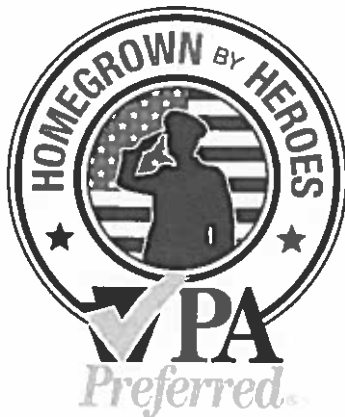


MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY | Extension



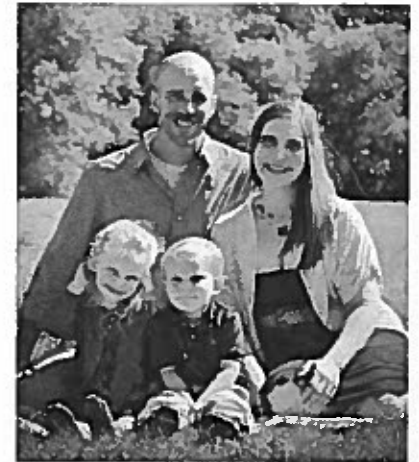
## Marketing

- Guide to MI Farmer Veteran Products
- Connect with buyers
- Michigan Homegrown by Heroes



## Funding

- 2016 FVC-MI Fellowship Clinic
  - 44 participants
  - 29 completed fellowships
    - MI made up 15% of 2016 fellowship applications



## Community

- Vet-to-vet support
- Farm visits
- Mentorship
- A network who cares





## Partnering with MI organizations

- MI Farm Bureau
- MI Ag Council
- MI AgrAbility
- USDA-NRCS
- MAEAP
- MIFFS
- MSU

Michigan  MICHIGAN STATE EXTENSION  
**AgrAbility**

**ag**  
michigan  council



Michigan Food &  
Farming Systems - MIFFS  
*Supporting the Many Faces of Farming*

**FB**  
**MICHIGAN**  
**FARM BUREAU®**



## Michigan's Opportunity

- 2<sup>nd</sup> in ag diversity
- Robust ag industry
- Average age of MI farmer 56
- MI is a National Guard state
  - 660,000 veterans



## **MI has a unique opportunity!!!**

- Address MI aging farmer population
- Secure skilled talent for MI ag industry
- Increase MI ag productivity
- Ensure MI food security
- Address MI veterans health and wellness
- **Ensure MI citizens and our ag industry thrive**



# Thank You

[www.farmvetco.org](http://www.farmvetco.org)

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